

# **Volusia County**

Water Partnerships  
History and Lessons

# Resource Issues

- Sole source aquifer
- All suppliers using groundwater sources
- SJWMD identification of groundwater constraints based on environmental impacts
  - Springflows
  - Lake levels
  - Wetland impacts
  - Saltwater intrusion

# Multi-jurisdictional Approaches

- Began in early 1990's with regional utility provider managers in east Volusia. Produced interconnect projects.
- Volusia Water Alliance followed with county-wide membership of elected officials plus agriculture and a large private utility representative under the county membership
  - Voting rights only for CUP holders.
  - Produced initial studies of demands / deficits.

# Multi-jurisdictional Approaches

- Volusia Water Authority came after a year of governance study and negotiation.
  - All local government members have one vote. No limitation to CUP holders.
  - Initial funding formula based on gallons produced, population, property values. Future funding through water sales at unitary rate.
  - Anticipated VWA development and operation of all water supply facilities

# Realty Check

- When the money got real....
- Lack of support for consolidation of CUP's or source facilities.
- VWA to focus on new supplies only.
- Lack of support for the unitary rate or shared funding without direct benefit.
- Equal voting opposition.
- WMD withdrew support for alternative projects that involved groundwater.

# VWA Today

- Remnant members
  - Fiscal support from past dues.
  - Conservation focus.
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- Workgroups for regional projects and studies continue outside the VWA.

# Yankee Lake Project

- Proposed project for surface water treatment facility on St. John's Rvr.
- Expansion of facilities on Seminole County site.
- Multiple jurisdiction interest but governance not determined
- Shareholder vs. customer relationship.

# Hindsight

- Commitment comes from need.
- Identify funding source(s) early.
- Cut loose weak links.
- Allow interests to prevail over governance.
- Require cost impact analysis.

WMD

Align permits and planning.

Provide regional infrastructure.

Provide or allow meaningful funding.